

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CPR-01 /051 W
-----152248Z 054652 /67

O R 152211Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3393
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0746

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, ES, PFOR, US
SUBJECT: GOES PROTEST ON DUARTE'S RECEPTION BY VICE PRESIDENT

REFS: (A) STATE 28103, (B) SAN SALVADOR 655

1. IN CONTEXT OF A MEETING I HAD WITH THE PRESIDENT AND HIS
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE AND INTERIOR, ON OTHER
MATTERS REPORTED SEPTELS, BORGONOVO SHOWED ME A WIRE SERVICE
PHOTOGRAPH OF NAPOLEON DUARTE'S WASHINGTON CALL, ACCOMPANIED
BY CONGRESSMAN KOCH, ON THE VICE PRESIDENT ON FEBRUARY 11. THE
FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE GOES UNDERSTOOD OUR PREVIOUS EXPLAN-
ATIONS THAT DUARTE'S TALKS WITH MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE
BRANCH DID NOT REPRESENT USG INTERFERENCE IN SALVADORAN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS SINCE AN INDIVIDUAL CONGRESSMAN DOES NOT REPRESENT THE
ADMINISTRATION OR THE USG. HE ASKED IF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WAS NOT ANOTHER MATTER, IF HE DID NOT IN FACT REPRESENT THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

2. AFTER READING THE PHOTO CAPTION CAREFULLY AND AT SOME
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LENGTH, I VENTURED THAT SOMEONE ARRIVING AT THE VICE PRES-
IDENT'S OFFICE WITH A REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW SUPPORTED
BY SENATOR KENNEDY AND CONGRESSMAN KOCH (AS CLAIMED IN THE
PRESS), STOOD A GOOD CHANCE OF BEING SEEN.

3. COMMENT: NOTWITHSTANDING THE CIVILITY OF THE XCHANGE,
I FELT THAT MY UNPREPAREDNESS ON BEING PRESENTED WITH THIS

ISSUE INTERFACED WITH MY EFFECTIVENESS IN PRESENTING THE PRINCIPAL MESSAGE I WAS DELIVERING TO THE PRESIDENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE EMBASSY, ALREADY THE TARGET OF CHARGES THAT ONE OR ANOTHER ELEMENT THEREIN IS IMPROPERLY INVOLVED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PROCESS (SEE REFTELS), NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF WHAT TRANSPIRES AT THE WASHINGTON END OF THINGS, ESPECIALLY PUBLIC EVENTS REPORTED IN THE NEWS MEDIA, IF IT IS TO KNOW HOW TO BEST DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST SUCH CHARGES. I AM CONCERNED THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED NO RPT NO DESCRIPTION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF DUARTE'S MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT, OR MEMCONS OF TALKS HE REPORTEDLY HAD WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. ANY SUCH MESSAGES SHOULD BE SENT BY IMMEDIATE CABLE, NOT POUCHED.

4. THE EMBASSY NOW HAS BEEN TOLD BY A UNO CONTACT THAT DUARTE PLANS TO TRAVEL TO SAN SALVADOR BEFORE THE ELECTION, ACCOMPANIED BY SENATOR KENNEDY. A RUMOR SUCH AS THIS, IN AN ALREADY JITTERY CAPITAL, WILL WIND A WIDE AND RECEPTIVE AUDIENCE. WHILE UNWILLING TO BELIEVE THE STORY ITSELF, RECENT EXPERIENCE MAKES ME UNWILLING TO CATEGORICALLY DENY IT. I WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.
LOZANO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANSAS00746
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770054-0294
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770240/aaaabjmc.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 663a4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 28103, 77 SAN SALVADOR 655
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3318537
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOES PROTEST ON DUARTE'S RECEPTION BY VICE PRESIDENT
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ES, US, (MONDALE, WALTER F), (DUARTE, NAPOLEON)
To: STATE GUATEMALA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/663a4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009